**February Meeting**

**Friday, February 18  
7:30 pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Kody Kerwin, KG6CZW  
Emergency Communications**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
1035 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA**

**Presidential QRM**

**By Trevor Hall, WA6JAU**

How to climb towers safely. That was the theme for meeting this month, and it is an important subject to all amateur radio operators. Thanks to Howard Burk, KE6PTT, we heard a very informative presentation on tower climbing, thank you Howard.

Next month the speaker will be Kody Kerwin, KG6CZW, who will talk on Emergency Communication.

Being the first general meeting of the year, all committee's made reports. Pete Harris, WB6ZIW, reminded us that March and April are busy months for service events. Many of these service events support charities such as March of Dimes and Muscular Dystrophy. If you have time to help, please contact Pete and sign up.

The first PACIFICON meeting was held on Saturday January 22 at the Concord Police station. All future PACIFICON meetings are planned for the second Saturday of the month because of conference room availability. Look for future announcements on the club website and issues of the *Carrier*. We need a lot of additional volunteers right now for PACIFICON. Please contact John Schulze, KR6CR, right away and volunteer.

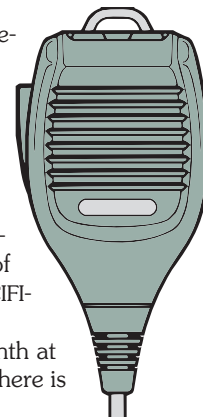
This year all club meetings will be held on the third Friday of the month at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. If we have field day on Mount Diablo, there is no way to enter or leave the park at night.

Thank you to the MDARC membership for approving the budget that was published in the carrier last month. Thank you Dick Schulze, AA6DL, for your presentation.

If the trailer is needed for any service events this year, please contact me. Advanced arrangements need to be made to gain access to the trailer.

We lost another amateur this month. Darwin Thompson, K6USW, passed away. Darwin was very active on EchoLink and did many presentations on the subject. He will be very sadly missed.

Everyone have a great month.

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**Powell to Step Down as FCC Chairman**

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 21, 2005—FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell announced today that he'll step down, effective "sometime in March." Powell's resignation comes just one day after President George W. Bush's inauguration for a second term in the White House. Nominated by former President Bill Clinton, Powell—whose father is Secretary of State Colin Powell—joined the FCC in 1997. He became its chairman two days after President Bush was sworn in for his first term in 2001. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, called Powell's performance "a deep disappointment" after some initial optimism. While the League is not unhappy about Powell's departure—especially given his unabashed cheerleading on behalf of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) initiative—there's also concern about whom President Bush might call upon to replace him.

"It's no secret that we thought Chairman Powell was going entirely in the wrong direction on BPL and dragging the other commissioners and FCC staff along—willing or not—because he was, after all, the chairman," Sumner said. "A new chairman might be a chance for a fresh start."

Last October when the FCC adopted new Part 15 rules for BPL, Powell called it "a banner day." While conceding that BPL will affect some spectrum users, including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there," the chairman implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

*continued on page 3*



## Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
(925) 288-1730

The *Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to [carrier@gardnerclan.net](mailto:carrier@gardnerclan.net) or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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## MDARC General Meeting

January 21, 2005

President Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. There were approximately 45 members and guests present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

President Trevor Hall introduced the newly elected officers and members of the Board.

Treasurer Dick Schulze, AA6DL, reported that the treasury contained a total of \$46,055. in all accounts (money market, certificate of deposit, and checking account). He noted that there have been 117 renewals so far, and 14 families. Last year there were 131 at this time. The total received from renewals has been \$5902.

EC Dana Jones, K6BRR, announced future events: Feb. 5, Antioch Safety Fair, Somerville Mall. Also, he informed members that RACES training is held the 3rd Saturday of each month.

(President Trevor Hall reminded members needing the club trailer that it should be pre-reserved; contact him.) He also noted that the Field Day location was not finalized yet.

Tech Committee Chmn. Jim Tittle, K6SOE, reported on the ATV controller.

PACIFICON Chairman John Schulze, KR6CR, noted that PACIFICON would begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in October. He also advised that Committee meetings would be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month (following MDARC meetings), beginning Jan. 22.

President Trevor Hall announced that the club has reserved the church hall for each 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday during the year. The April meeting will host the annual auction.

Public Service Chairman Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, announced service events, beginning in April. He will have a list available.

Treasurer Dick Schulze presented the approved budget from the Board of Directors, and answered questions from members. The membership approved the 2005 budget unanimously.

President Trevor Hall announced one ham passed the exam, and joined the club: Mike Powell, N5GTF. Larence Jorgensen, KB6SQ was a visitor.

VP Joe Cusumano, KF6RGH, announced the next few meeting topics: February, Emergency Communications; March, Computer Mapping (with John Stuart, KM6QX); April, annual auction; May, Wire Antennas (with Rich Holoch, KY6R); June, the 3YO Expedition.

President Trevor Hall announced that EB Section Tech Coordinator and previous speaker Darwin Thompson, K6USW, was SK.

President Trevor Hall adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

Respectfull submitted, Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2005

President Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Board Members present: Pres. Trevor Hall, V. P. Joe Cusumano, KF6RGH, (new) Secretary Paul Dickey, N6JOX, (new) Treasurer Dick Schulze, AA6DL, Emergency Coordinator Dana Jones, K6BRR, and Members Dick Brown, KT6X, Jay Caldis, KT6Y, (new) Bob Green, K6GD.

Other club members and guests: Membership Chairman Pete Slagle, K6XL, Asst. Field Day Chairman Trevor Raty, KG6MDW, Don Anthony, N6SIA (8:10), Dave Gordon, N6SWE, Lauren, WA6CIE and Liz, KG6HLV Styles (8:25).

The minutes of the Dec. 6 meeting were approved unanimously. Pete Slagle agreed to talk to the *Carrier* editor re: e-mailing members.

President Trevor Hall installed the newly elected officers and members of the Board.

Treasurer Dick Schulze reported to the Board on a proposed budget, and led an extensive discussion of line items. After agreeing to present the proposed budget to the club membership at the next meeting, the Board unanimously approved it with agreed-upon revisions. Pete Slagle will notify the

Carrier editor of the number to print.

President Trevor Hall led a discussion of calendar items:

- whether to hold a regular meeting apart from or with Field Day. Lauren Styles will check with the Church.
- whether to hold a regular meeting in addition to PACIFICON. It was unanimously agreed that we will hold regular meetings the third Friday of October and December. Lauren Styles agreed to check with the Church to see if those dates will be available.
- the annual auction will be held on April 15.
- Dick Brown will assemble a calendar of meetings and events for the Board.

President Trevor Hall appointed Trevor Raty as Field Day Chairman.

The Board discussed the proposed consideration of a North Peak site for the repeater. The consensus was that a move would be prohibitively expensive.

Don Anthony presented an idea for a silent auction table at general meetings. The Board unanimously approved further exploration of this idea.

President Trevor Hall noted that the Board would consider the issue of family membership rates at the next Board meeting, Feb. 7 (@ Carl's Jr.).

President Trevor Hall adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

## Powell to Step Down

*continued from page 1*

Powell listed the Commission's adoption of BPL rules among the "policy highlights" of his tenure. "Broadband to power plugs would lower prices, expand deployment," the chairman's list of accomplishments asserts.

Possibilities to replace Powell include the other Republican members of the five-member FCC—Kathleen Q. Abernathy, a staunch BPL supporter, and Kevin J. Martin. Speculation also has been raised about various candidates outside the commissioners. "We look forward to the opportunity to work with the new chairman, whoever that may be," Sumner said.

Powell, in his announcement, said it was "with a mixture of pride and regret" that he informed the president of his decision to step down.

"Having completed a bold and aggressive agenda, it is time for me to pursue other opportunities and let someone else take the reins of the agency," he said. "During my tenure, we worked to get the law right in order to stimulate innovative technology that puts more power in the hands of the American people, giving them greater choices that enrich their lives."

The chairman said the seeds of the Commission's policies under his leadership "are taking firm root in the marketplace and are starting to blossom." He cited the increased use of cell phones, digital TV and other digital technology "increasingly connected anytime, anywhere by a wide variety of broadband networks."

"Our children will inherit this exciting future," Powell proclaimed, adding that he looks forward to spending some time with his wife and two sons "before taking up my next challenge."

As FCC chairman, Powell also has been in the forefront of enforcing the Commission's rules on indecency, largely through imposing huge fines on violators. He also supported changes in media ownership rules that permitted even greater concentration in the ownership of broadcasting outlets.

Powell's formal resignation announcement followed widespread reports in the media that he would be leaving. Communications Daily said the chairman's last day would be March 10.

## K7RA Solar Update

SEATTLE, WA, Jan 21, 2005—This has been a very active week for solar flares and geomagnetic storms. The average daily sunspot number rose more than 57 points this week to 89, and the average daily solar flux was up nearly 43 points to 132.7, as compared to the previous reporting week. The average daily planetary A index more than doubled—from 17.9 to 36.6.

Huge sunspot 720 provided lots of excitement over the past week. Clay Evans from Colorado wrote to say that on January 14 he was driving to work near Boulder, and through the heavily-filtered clouds he could see a large dark spot on the sun. This was probably sunspot 720.

Two large flares (coronal mass ejections or CMEs) erupted from this sunspot on Saturday, January 15. Over the next few days the geomagnetic numbers bumped up dramatically, with planetary A indices of 63, 72 and 62 for January 17-19. The high-latitude collage A indices for the same three days were 114, 136 and 106.

On Monday, January 17, another big flare blasted in our direction. It peaked around 0950 UTC. As sunspot 720 moves off the center of the visible solar disk, more flares erupted, including a huge X7-class event on Thursday, January 20. The energy could sweep past Earth today, January 21.

This flare was the largest of any during the past year, and it triggered the largest radiation storm in the current 11-year solar cycle. This radiation storm had not resulted in a geomagnetic storm here as of January 20, when this update was compiled.

The current prediction is for a planetary A index of 25, 20 and 20 for January 21-23, but these numbers could be higher depending on how direct the radiation hits Earth. With sunspot 720 moving beyond view, daily solar flux values are expected to dip below 100 around January 23-24.

For more information concerning propagation and an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin see the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page.

Sunspot numbers for January 13 through 19 were 77, 65, 100, 99, 107, 109 and 66, with a mean of 89. The 10.7 cm flux was 115.6, 129.8, 144.9, 144.5, 137.5, 124.3 and 132.5, with a mean of 132.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 13, 12, 22, 12, 63, 72 and 62 with a mean of 36.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 10, 11, 11, 10, 27, 35 and 31, with a mean of 19.3.

## Tampere Convention Eases Emergency Telecommunications

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 20, 2005—When an international disaster strikes, humanitarian organizations now will be able to provide telecommunications more quickly and effectively to help victims. The Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, which became effective January 8, largely eliminates roadblocks to moving telecommunications personnel and equipment into and within disaster-stricken areas—such as those affected by the December earthquake and tsunami.

## RACES Training Schedule Feb.-Apr. 2005

Date	Location	Subject
February 5th	Sommerville Towne Center Mall	Antioch Safety Fair
February 19th	Fire Training Center, Pleasant Hill	Check In & Staging
March 19th	525 Henrietta, Martinez, CA	Basic Training
April 16th	Fire Training Center, Pleasant Hill	RADO Training

Be sure to verify the time and place of training on the countywide RACES net on the Thursday evening prior to the event. The countywide net airs at 7:20 PM on 147.735 Central County, 145.410 South County and 145.490 West County.

Delegates to the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98) adopted the 17-article treaty in June of 1998 in Tampere, Finland, and ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ—in his role as International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary—was among those attending ICET-98. ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RL, credits Hans Zimmermann, HB9AQS, with being one “a prime mover” behind the Tampere Convention.

“The Tampere Convention has broader purposes but is an important building block in IARU’s efforts to improve recognition of the Amateur Service in providing emergency communications for disaster relief,” Rinaldo says. Zimmermann coordinated work on the Tampere disaster telecommunications treaty. Seppo Sisättö, OH1VR, chaired the organizing committee for the Tampere Convention. Amateur Radio’s role in emergency communication received high praise in an opinion adopted by the Second Tampere Conference on Disaster Communication in May 2001, where several speakers lauded the work of amateurs in the wake of disasters.

Rinaldo notes too that the IARU led the way for a revision of Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) to include an item enabling radio amateurs to handle third-party communications during emergency and disaster relief situations. While FCC Part 97 has not yet been revised to reflect this change, ARRL understands from FCC staff that if the government agencies responsible for the Amateur Service in disaster-affected countries do not object to their amateur stations receiving messages from our amateur stations on behalf of third parties, the US has no objection to its amateur stations transmitting international communications in support of disaster relief.

A government may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction. This could include either permitting a broader range of international third-party communications, or prohibiting even emergency and disaster relief communications.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) says that until the Tampere Convention, regulatory barriers often impeded the ability of humanitarian organizations to deploy telecommunications equipment across borders in an emergency, and delays have cost lives.

“In emergency situations, telecommunication saves lives,” ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi said in a statement. “With this convention, relief workers can make full use of today’s telecommunication tools, which are essential for the coordination of rescue operations.”

The first treaty of its kind, the Tampere Convention calls on signatory countries to facilitate prompt telecommunication aid to mitigate a disaster’s impact. It covers both installation and

operation of telecommunication services and waives regulatory barriers such as licensing requirements and import restrictions as well as limitations on the movement of humanitarian teams. The pact also grants immunity from arrest and detention to those providing disaster assistance, and exempts them from taxes and duties.

At the time of ICET-98, Zimmerman was serving in the United Nations Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva. When Zimmerman retired, IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, appointed Zimmerman as IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 7	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Carl's Jr. 2280 Oakgrove, Walnut Creek
February 18	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
February 28		March <i>Carrier</i> Deadline	
March 7	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Carl's Jr. 2280 Oakgrove, Walnut Creek

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***MDARC General Meeting: February 18<sup>th</sup>***